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Whitehall, April 20.

A Convention has been made between his Majesty and the City of Hambourg, for establishing a free and regulated Trade for Herrings and other Fish. Which Convention, as ratified by his Majesty, is as follows;

GEorge by the Grace of God, King of Great Britain, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, Duke of Brunswick and Lunenburg, Arch-Treasurer and Prince Elector of the Holy Roman Empire, &c. To all and singular to whom these Presents shall come, Greeting. Whereas a certain Convention for establishing a regular and free Trade for Herrings between our Subjects and the City of Hambourg, was first made in the Year 1711, and was lately renewed, explained, and inlarged; and was concluded and signed on our Part by Cyrill Wich, Esq; our Minister residing with the Republick of Hambourg, and on the Part of the Consuls and Senate of the said Republick by their Deputies; being furnished on both Sides with sufficient Orders and Authority, at Hambourg on the 8th Day of this present Month of February, in the Form and Words following;

Convention renewed and inlarged between His Britannick Majesty and the City of Hambourg, concerning the Trade of Herrings, February 8, 1719.

THAT is to say, that between the most serene and most potent Prince and Lord George, King of Great Britain, &c. by his Minister and Resident M. Cyrill Wich on the one Part, and the laudable Republick of Hambourg by the Deputies of its honourable Senate, M. John Anderson Syndick, Peter Burmester, and Henry Dieterick Wiese, Senators, on the other Part, by Virtue of their Powers and Commissions, the Convention of the Year 1711, is renewed, explained, and inlarged, in the following Articles, which are to serve for a constant Regulation of the free Trade of Herrings caught by the Subjects of His Britannick Majesty on the Coasts of His Kingdoms.

I. The City of Hambourg grants Permission, for importing freely to the said City, Herrings caught on the Coasts of Great Britain, upon paying the same Duties of Entry as are usually paid for Flemish or Dutch Herrings.

II. The Herrings, at their being brought in, shall all be put into the Warehouse or Warehouses which shall be judged most convenient and proper, there to be kept, the Proprietors paying a reasonable Hire by the Ton, as they can agree with the Owner of the Warehouse.

III. The Herrings shall be opened in the Warehouse Yard, in the same Manner as those of Holland are, in the View of all who have a Mind to be present; the Pickle shall be drawn out, and after the Barrel shall be filled up with good Fish, the Pickle shall be put in again, the Fish remaining always in the same Barrel, without being removed from one Barrel to be re-packed in another. Besides, they shall be appraised or valued and according to their Quality a proper Mark within a Circle shall be set at the Head and on the Middle of every Barrel; and to shew that they are not Flemish or Dutch Herrings, but of Great Britain, a crowned B shall be burnt on the Head of each Barrel.

IV. For this Purpose the Senate oblige themselves to chuse and appoint two Appraisers, commonly called *Wraquerss* and two Packers; and that they may not be suspected of Partiality, they shall not have any Dependance upon, or Concern with the *Schonenfahrers* (or Corporation of Dealers in Fish;) and the said *Wraquers* and Packers shall take a solemn Oath, conformable to the Sense of this Article, before the Honourable Senate, which Oath shall be administred to them a-new every Year the Beginning of June, by the Deputies of the Senate.

V. If the Proprietors or their Factors come in Person with their Herrings, they shall have Liberty to vend them to any Burghers or Inhabitants of the Town indifferently, whom they shall think fit to deal with; but if within the Space of eight Days they cannot dispose of them to Burghers or Inhabitants, they shall be allowed to sell them to whomsoever they will, or to send them out of the Town to such Place as they shall think fit.

VI. When the Proprietors would send their Herrings to Factors to dispose of them, they shall be obliged to chuse their Factor, either among the laudable English Company residing in the Town, or among the Burghers, who may then sell them to whomsoever they please, or send them out of the Town whither they shall think fit.

VII. Besides what is already agreed as above, the Subjects of His Britannick Majesty shall always enjoy the same Privileges and Advantages in the Herring-Trade, as are already granted or may hereafter be granted to the Subjects of their High Mightinesses the States General of the United Provinces.

VIII. It is likewise permitted to the Subjects of His Britannick Majesty, to bring to Hambourg Salmon, Stock-fish, Cod, and all other Sorts of Fish, either dried or smoaked, in Barrels or salted, on Condition they pay according to Custom the Duty of Entry or moderate Gabel. In the like Manner it is stipulated for the Inhabitants and Burghers of Hambourg, that they shall trade, according to their ancient Custom, to the Provinces of the British Kingdoms, carry their Merchandize thither, and truck or exchange the same for those Sorts of Fish and other Goods.

In witness whereof, and by virtue of the Orders and full Powers, which we the above-mentioned Minister of Great Britain and Deputies of Hambourg, have received from His Majesty the King of Great Britain on the one Part, and from the honourable Senate on the other, we have signed the present renewed Convention, and caused the Seals of our Arms to be affixed thereto. Done at Hambourg the 8th of February 1719.

(L. S.) *Cyrill Wich.*

(L. S.) *John Anderson*, Syndick.

(L. S.) *Peter Burmester*, Senator.

(L. S.) *Henry Dieterick Wiese*, Senator.

WE having seen and considered the above-written Convention, have approved, ratified and confirmed, as by these Presents we do for Us, our Heirs and Successors, approve, ratify and confirm the same, in all and singular its Articles and Clauses; on Condition however, that what is said in the 8th Article of the ancient Custom of the Hamburghers to trade to our Kingdoms, be always understood according to the known and established Laws of our said Kingdoms; engaging and promising on our Royal Word, sincerely and *bona fide* to perform and observe all and singular the Things contained in the said Convention, in the Manner above explained; and never to suffer, as far as in us lies, any one to violate, or in any wise to act contrary to the same. In Witness and Confirmation of all which, we have caused our Great Seal of Great Britain to be affixed to these Presents signed with our Royal Hand. Given at our Palace at St. James's the 16th Day of February, in the Year of our Lord 1718-19, and of our Reign the fifth. GEORGE R.

Extract